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THE RULES OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE.\*—In republishing these rules accompanied by many valuable notes and comments, Prof. Verrill has done good service to zoölogy in this country. A copy of these rules and those of the British Association, reviewed by Prof. Gray in a previous number of Silliman's Journal, should be in the hands of every zoölogist.

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## NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

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### BOTANY.

ARTIFICIAL PREPARATION OF SUBSTANCES FOUND IN PLANTS AND ANIMALS.—Dr. Debus, the President of the Chemical Section of the British Association, states: "It has already become possible to prepare in the laboratory bodies of a very complex character, and which a few years ago were only found in the bodies of animals or plants. Alizarine, the beautiful compound of the madder-root, has been obtained by artificial means in the course of the year by Messrs. Liebermann and Graëbe. Results of such a nature render it highly probable that, at no distant period, it will be in our power to prepare, artificially, nearly all, if not all, the substances found in plants and animals. Here I must not be misunderstood. Organic structures, such as muscular fibre or the leaves of a tree, the science of chemistry is incapable of producing, but molecules, like those found in a leaf, or in the stem of a tree, will no doubt one day be manufactured from their elements.—*Scientific Opinion*.

MAPLE-SEED, THREE WINGED.—I know not if it be common, and, therefore, ask for information, but on a tree of the *Acer saccharinum*, or sugar maple, in the Central Park in this city (New York) I found, a few days since, a three-winged seed. The description of the genus says, "ovary 2-celled. From the back of each ovary grows a wing, converting the fruit into two 1-seeded, at length separable, closed samaras or keys." (Gray.) I only found this one, though the trees were covered with seed, and I searched pretty carefully for more.—A. M. E.

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### ZOOLOGY.

KINSHIP OF ASCIDIANS AND VERTEBRATES.—The number of Max Schultze's Archiv (v. 4), just published, contains a letter to the editor from Prof. Kupffer of Kiel, in which that distinguished embryologist asserts that he has been studying the early history of a species of *Phallosia*, and that his results in large measure agree with those of Kowalewski,

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\* From the American Journal of Science and Arts, November, 1869, at Naturalists' Agency 27 cents.